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GLYNN & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

KENNETH P. GLYNN, ESQ.
Bars: New Jersey, Federal, Conn.,
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

DEIRDRA M. RAGNO, ESQ.
Bars: New Jersey, Federal

ALEX A. HUQ, ESQ.
Bars: Pennsylvania, New York

DAVID E. FINCH, ESQ.
Bars: New Jersey, New York

DARSHAN V. PATEL
Bars: New York

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03/05/97

Telephone:
(908) 788-0077

Mailing Address:
Suite 201 (Plaza One)
One Rte. 12 West
Flemington
New Jersey 08822-1731

Telefax:
(908) 788-3999

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Inventor: Harry W. Eberle, III

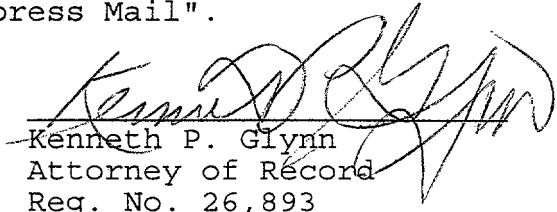
For: ANCHORING BISCUIT DEVICE FOR JOINING TWO ADJACENT
BOARDS
Docket No.: HWE-103A

Enclosed are:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copies of Prior Art References | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of a |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small entity status declaration | <u>Application</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (included in specification) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>4</u> sheets of drawings |
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Kenneth P. Glynn
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 26,893

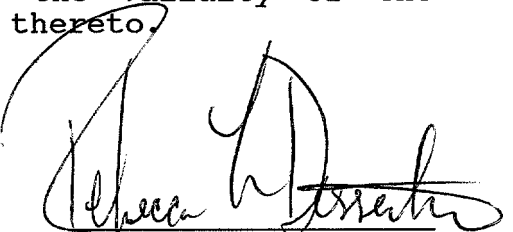
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(Docket No.HWE-103A)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ANCHORING BISCUIT DEVICE FOR JOINING TWO ADJACENT BOARDS

Inventor: Harry W. Eberle, III

Attorney Docket No. HWE-103A

Kenneth P. Glynn
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 26,893
Suite 201 (Plaza One)
One Route 12 West
Flemington, NJ 08822-1731
tele (908) 788-0077
fax (908) 788-3999

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ANCHORING BISCUIT DEVICE FOR
JOINING TWO ADJACENT BOARDS
(Attorney Docket No.HWE-103A)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

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The present invention is directed to an improved biscuit for joining adjacent boards. More specifically, the invention is an anchoring biscuit device, as well an anchoring half biscuit device which has the ability for pre-setting distances between adjacent boards and attaching to at least one board by means in addition to the biscuit itself. The anchoring biscuit device physically joins two adjacent boards in the same plane to a third, supporting board. The anchoring half-biscuit device joins two adjacent boards at right angles to one another.

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2. Information Disclosure Statement

The following patents are representative of the state of the art for wood joining devices, equipment and methods:

5 U.S Patent No. 2,332,081 to G.M. Hunt et al is directed to a wooden panel. It is described as a panel comprising wooden strips joined along their edges with glue, each strip having at least one groove in its edge matching groove in the edge of the adjoining strip, an asbestos millboard spline fitted in the matching grooves and bridging the joint between the strips, crosshands covering the strips on both sides of the panel, and veneers covering the crossbands.

10

15 U.S Patent No. 4,641,988 to Ganner is directed to a fitting for releasably joining two

structural components. It is illustrated for
releasably joining two structural components
particularly plate-shaped structural components
which extend at a right angle relative to one

5 another, a fitting has a preferably cylindrical
locking element which can be inserted either
directly in a bore in the first structural

10 component or it can be inserted indirectly in a
housing, and a holding piece with a holding
projection anchored in the second structural
component. In the assembled position, the holding

projection & abuts against one or two gripping
surfaces of the locking element which gripping
surfaces are of, for example, eccentric shape,

15 and the holding projection is pulled toward the
locking element when the locking element is

turned. The holding piece is constructed plate-shaped and is insertable in a slot in the second structural component.

5 U.S Patent No. 5,004,027 to Legler et al illustrates a biscuit joiner. It is described as a biscuit joiner for cutting semi-elliptical slots in opposing edges of workpieces which are to be joined along those edges includes a housing adapted to be mounted upon the quill of a multi-
10 purpose woodworking tool, which housing encloses a rotary saw blade adapted to be attached to a spindle projecting from the quill on which the housing is mounted. A spring loaded guide projects from the front face of the housing and
15 has a slot therethrough, so that when the front face of the guide is engaged by an edge of a

workpiece to be slotted the guide can be pushed inwardly against spring pressure, allowing the rotary saw blade to be exposed and form a slot in the edge of the workpiece. Adjustable stops are provided on the guide so that a desired depth of cut will automatically be made after adjustment.

An alternative construction of this biscuit joiner is especially adapted for use in conjunction with a conventional drill press, with the arbor which carries the saw blade being clamped in the chuck on the drive spindle of the drill motor.

U.S Patent No. 5,377,732 to Fujii et al illustrates a wood joining structure and method thereof. It is described as a technique is provided for joining wood members. A plurality of

slits are formed on the end portions of wood
pieces desired to be joined, and the end portions
are abutted with corresponding slits in alignment
to form a common surface. Each of the abutted
5 wood end portions is fixed by temporary fixing
means to a desired joining state. Thereafter, an
adhesive agent is applied into the interior
surfaces of the slits. Connecting plates, e.g.,
made of a reinforced plastic material coated with
10 the adhesive agent, are inserted into the aligned
slits. The adhesive agent is then hardened.

U.S Patent No. 5,458,433 to Stastny

explicates a biscuit and joint made using same.

It is described as a biscuit having octagonal

15 outer periphery is used to form a joint between
first and second workpieces. The biscuit fits

within arcuate slots formed in the workpieces,
with glue placed in the slots and/or on the
biscuit before the joint is put together. The
biscuit is made of an anhydrous compressed wood.

5 U.S Patent No. 5,529,428 to Bischof is
directed to a metallic structural element for
connecting workpieces consisting of wood,
woodworking material or plastic. It is described
as a metallic structural element for connecting
10 workpieces consisting of wood, woodworking
material or plastic, consisting of a lamellar
part, which provides the non-positive connection
with the first workpiece provided with a groove
and a transverse hole, and a bolt-like part
15 which, through screwing or pinning, realizes the
non-positive connection with the second workpiece

provided with a longitudinal hole. The lamellar
part has, in the center, a hole which is at right
angles to the plane of the lamella and is
intended for fixing in the groove of the
5 workpiece. Variants having a wing-like long or
rectangular short lamellar part and a bolt-like
part in the form of a conical wood screw,
cylindrical screw, screw having a metal thread,
threaded sleeve or pin. Accessories: screwing
10 tool and drilling template.

Notwithstanding the prior art, the present
invention is neither taught nor rendered obvious
thereby.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention is an anchoring
biscuit device for joining three boards. It

includes, (a) a first substantially flat
horizontal top element having a generally
biscuit-shaped top view configuration, (b) at
least one substantially vertical support member
5 attached to the underside of the top element and
extending downwardly therefrom for a
predetermined length to place the top element at
a predetermined height for joinder of two adja-
cent boards which have been pre-cut with biscuit
10 receiving slots, and, (c) an attachment component
attached to at least one of the top element and
the vertical support member for attachment of the
anchoring biscuit device to a support board for
anchoring and support of the two adjacent boards.
15 The present invention is also an anchoring half-
biscuit device for joining two boards. This

includes, (a) a first substantially flat
horizontal top element having a generally half-
biscuit-shaped top view configuration, (b) at
least one substantially vertical support member
5 attached to the underside of the top element and
extending downwardly therefrom for a
predetermined length to place the top element at
a predetermined height for joinder of two adja-
cent boards, one of which has been pre-cut with
10 biscuit receiving slots, (c) at least one
horizontal extended member extending outwardly
from the vertical support member and,
(d) an attachment component for attachment of the
anchoring half-biscuit device to a support board
15 for anchoring and support of two adjacent boards
located at right angles to one another.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention should be more fully understood when the specification herein is taken in conjunction with the drawings appended hereto wherein:

Figure 1 illustrates a top view of one preferred embodiment of the present invention anchoring biscuit device, Figure 2 illustrates a front view, and Figure 3 illustrates a side view thereof;

Figure 4 shows a side view of the present invention device shown in Figures 1 through 3 but being attached to a joist and a first deck board and about to be attached to a second deck board where both deck boards are supported by that joist;

Figure 5 shows a front view of an alternative embodiment present invention anchoring biscuit device;

Figure 6 shows a front view of an alternative embodiment present invention anchoring biscuit device having a vertical extended member for horizontal attachment of the device to a joist and Figure 7 shows an end view thereof in use;

Figure 8 illustrates a top view of a present invention anchor biscuit device having a horizontal extended member and Figures 9 and 10 show front and side views thereof, respectively;

Figure 11 shows a top view of a present invention anchor half biscuit device and, Figures 12 and 13 show a front view and end view thereof,

respectively; and,

Figures 14 and 15 show other present invention anchor half-biscuit devices attaching two adjacent boards that are located at right angles to one another.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

In Figure 1, there is shown a top view of present invention anchor biscuit device 1.

Device 1 includes a top element 3 having a flat top surface as shown, and a top view shape of a biscuit. Thus, it includes walls 5 and 7 in the shape of arcs having predetermined radius and predetermined arc lengths. In this case, they are perfectly symmetrical and have flat endwalls 9 and 11. Without exceeding the scope of the present invention, these biscuit shapes could be

slightly modified, such as having slightly non-circular arcs or linear segments at angles approximating arcs.

Top element 3 also includes an attachment means, in this case, screw hole 13 located on center. This enables the user to nail or screw device 1 into a joist, as more fully described in conjunction with Figure 4 below.

Figures 2 and 3 show front and end (right side) views, respectively of device 1 shown in Figure 1. Thus, device 1 includes vertical support members 15 and 17 with a space therebetween to permit a screw or nail to pass through screw hole 13 into a joist or support board. Vertical support members 15 and 17 have a predetermined height so as to rest on a joist in

such a way as to establish biscuit top element 3 at a predetermined height from the joist for attachment of two adjacent boards thereto which have pre-cut biscuit slots corresponding thereto.

5 Figure 4 shows present invention device 1 with identical parts identically numbered.

Top element 3 (rear) is inserted into pre-cut biscuit slot 27 of horizontal beam 21, as shown.

10 Screw 31 is inserted into screw hole 13 and into joist beam 25. This anchors device 1 to joist beam 25 and establishes the elevation of top element 3 so as to match with biscuit slot 27.

15 Beam 23 will be placed atop joist 25 and adjacent to beam 21 by being slid into position with wall 7 fitting into slot 29 and the bottom of beam 23 resting on joist 25. By this method, device 1

attaches all three boards to one another as the biscuit aspects are typically tight-fitting.

Thus, for example, decking boards may be attached without the need for nails or screws entering the beams from the top.

Figure 5 shows an alternative embodiment present invention device 51 which has multiple screw holes 43, 53 and 55 located in a straight line on center of top element 47. It includes ends 41 and 49, and it has a plurality of vertical support members such as vertical support members 45 and 57, with spaces therebetween for screw or nail insertions. Device 51 is used in the same manner as device 1 described above with respect to Figure 4.

Figure 6 shows a front view of alternative

embodiment present invention anchoring biscuit
device 61 which includes a top element 77, a
vertical support member 67 and a vertical
extended member 71 which has a horizontal top 73
and vertical side members 75 and 81. These
include screw or nail holes 83, 85, 87, and 89,
respectively.

Figure 7 shows a right side view thereof
and, referring to Figures 6 and 7, together, note
that top element 77 of device 61 has ends 65 and
69 and arc side walls 63 and 79. Thus, as shown
in Figure 7, such as screws 97 and 99 are used to
anchor device 61 to joist 91 and sidewalls 63 and
79 are fitted in the biscuit slots of planks 95
and 93, respectively.

Figure 8 shows a top view of a present

invention device 101 and Figures 9 and 10 show the front and right end views thereof respectively. Top element 103 includes arced sidewalls 105 and 107 and ends 109 and 111.

5 There is a vertical support member 115 and a horizontal extended member 119 which extends outwardly from both sides of vertical support member 115 and has screw holes such as screw holes 113 and 117. Device 101 is used in a
10 manner similar to device 61 shown in Figure 7 except that it is vertically toe-nailed or screwed to a joint.

Figure 11 shows a top view of an anchoring half-biscuit present invention device 201. This
15 includes half top element 203 with end walls 211 and 209 and arcuated side wall 205. It also

includes vertical support member 215 and
horizontal extended member 207. Figures 12 and
13 show a front and right end view thereof with
identical parts identically numbered. Referring
5 to Figures 11 through 13, note that four screw
holes 213, 217, 219 and 221 are provided.

Anchoring half device 201 is utilized to
connect two adjacent boards which are at right
angles to one another, thus, top element 203 is
10 inserted into a biscuit slot of a first beam and
is abutted to a second beam immediately below
horizontal extended member 207 and screwed or
nailed to device 201 using the aforesaid
described screw holes.

15 Referring to Figure 14 there is shown yet
another present invention anchoring half-biscuit

device 301 which includes a top element 305 as well as a vertical support member 303 and a horizontal extended member 307. Screw holes are provided in both vertical support member 303 and horizontal extended member 307. Thus, side wall 305 is inserted into a biscuit slot on vertical beam 321, and device 301 is screwed or nailed to beam 321 (see screw 315). Beam 331 is abutted to beam 321 at right angles and device 301 is screwed thereto (for example, with screw 311).

Referring to Figure 15 there is shown yet another present invention anchoring half-biscuit device 401, which includes a top element 405 (inverted in Figure 15 and including a half-biscuit portion 411), as well as a vertical support member 403 and a horizontal extended

member 407. Screw holes are provided only in horizontal extended member 407. Thus, half-biscuit portion 411 is inserted into a biscuit slot 413 on vertical beam 415, and device 401 is

5 screwed or nailed to horizontal beam 421 (see screw 417). Beam 415 is abutted to horizontal beam 421 at right angles and device 401 is used to secure these two beams together as shown.

Obviously, numerous modifications and

10 variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anchoring biscuit device for joining three boards, which comprises:

(a) a first substantially flat horizontal top element having a generally biscuit-shaped top view configuration, said top element having an imaginary center line;

(b) at least one substantially vertical support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length to place said top element at a predetermined height for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with biscuit receiving slots; and,

(c) attachment means attached to at least

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one of said top element and said vertical support member for attachment of said anchoring biscuit device to a support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

2. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 1 wherein said attachment means is at least one screwhole located on said top element for vertical screwing of said anchoring biscuit device to a support board.

3. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 2 wherein there is at least one screwhole located substantially in the center of said top element and there are two vertical support members attached to said top element, said two vertical support members being substantially flat, being

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in the same plane and one of each being located at least on opposite sides of said at least screwhole.

4. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 1 wherein said attachment means comprises at least one vertical extended member extending downwardly from said vertical support member, said vertical extended member containing at least one screwhole for horizontal screwing to a support board.

5. The anchoring biscuit of claim 1 wherein said attachment means comprises at least one horizontal extended member extending outwardly from said vertical support member, said horizontal extended member containing at least one screwhole for vertical screwing to a support

board.

6. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 1 wherein said attachment means comprises a horizontal bottom element extending outwardly on both sides of said support member and where in said horizontal bottom element has at least one screw hole on each opposite side of said vertical support member.

7. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 1 wherein said top element and said vertical support member are uni-structurally formed.

8. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 4 wherein said top element, said vertical support member and said vertical extended member are all

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uni-structurally formed.

9. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 5 wherein said top element, said vertical support member and said horizontal support member are all uni-structurally formed.

10. An anchoring biscuit device for joining three boards, which comprises:

(a) a first substantially flat horizontal top element having a generally biscuit-shaped top view configuration, said top element having an imaginary center line and having symmetrical, opposite sidewalls in the shape of a circular arc of predetermined radius and length and having opposite, flat endwalls;

(b) at least one substantially vertical

support member attached to the underside of said top element along said imaginary center line of said top element and extending downwardly therefrom for a predetermined length to place said top element at a predetermined height for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with biscuit receiving slots of similar configuration to said top element sidewalls; and,

(c) attachment means attached to at least one of said top element and said vertical support member for attachment of said anchoring biscuit device to a support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards.

11. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 10 wherein said attachment means is at least one screw hole located on said top element for

vertical screwing of said anchoring biscuit device to a support board.

12. The anchoring biscuit device of claim 10 wherein said attachment means comprises at least one vertical extended member extending downwardly from said vertical support member, said vertical extended member containing at least one screwhole for horizontal screwing to a support board.

13. The anchoring biscuit of claim 10 wherein said attachment means comprises at least one horizontal extended member extending outwardly from said vertical support member, said horizontal extended member containing at least one screwhole for vertical screwing to a support board.

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(a) a first substantially flat horizontal top element having a generally half-biscuit-shaped top view configuration, said top element having an imaginary center line;

(c) at least one horizontal extended member
extending outwardly from said vertical support

member; and,

(d) attachment means attached to at least one of said vertical support member and said horizontal extended member for attachment of said anchoring half-biscuit device to a support board for anchoring and support of said two adjacent boards located at right angles to one another.

15. The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 14 wherein said attachment means is at least one screwhole located on said vertical support member for screwing of said anchoring half-biscuit device to a board.

16. The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 14 wherein said attachment means is at least one screwhole located on said horizontal extending

member for screwing of said anchoring half-biscuit device to a board.

17. The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 14 wherein said attachment means is at least one screwhole located on said vertical support member and at least one screwhole located on said horizontal extended member for screwing of said anchoring half-biscuit device to two adjacent boards located at right angles to one another.

18. The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 14 wherein said top element and said vertical support member and said horizontal extended member are uni-structurally formed.

19. The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 15

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wherein said top element and said vertical support member and said horizontal extended member are uni-structurally formed.

20.The anchoring half-biscuit device of claim 16

wherein said top element and said vertical support member and said horizontal extended member are uni-structurally formed.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An anchoring biscuit device for joining boards, including a horizontal top element having a generally biscuit-shaped top view configuration, at least one vertical support member attached to the underside of the top element and extending downwardly for a predetermined length to place the top element at a predetermined height for joinder of two adjacent boards which have been pre-cut with biscuit receiving slots, and, an attachment component attached to at least one of the top element and the vertical support member for attachment of the anchoring biscuit device to a support board for anchoring and support of the two adjacent boards. The present invention is also an anchoring half-biscuit device for joining two boards located at right angles to one another. It includes a first substantially flat horizontal top element having a generally half-biscuit-shaped top view configuration, at least one substantially vertical support member, at least one horizontal extended member extending outwardly from the vertical support member and an attachment component.

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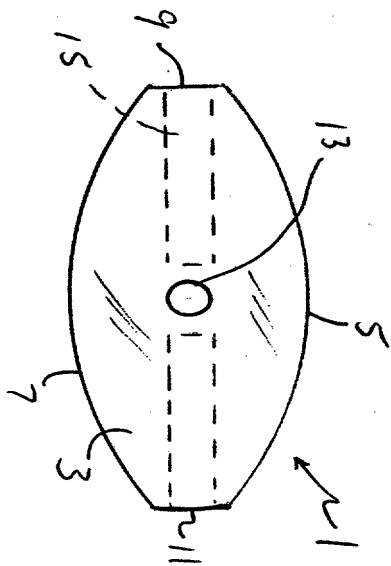


Figure 1

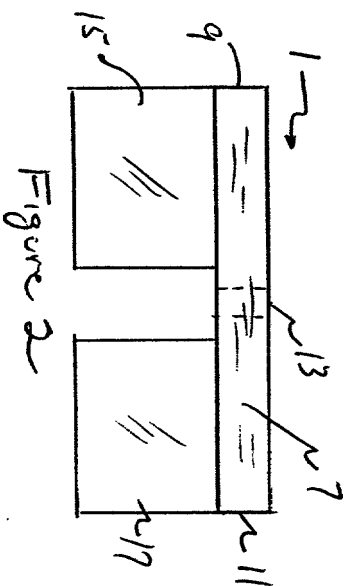


Figure 2

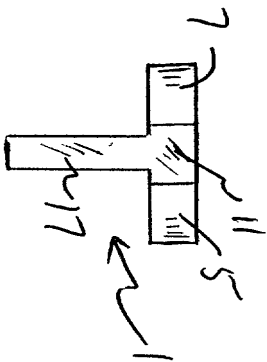


Figure 3

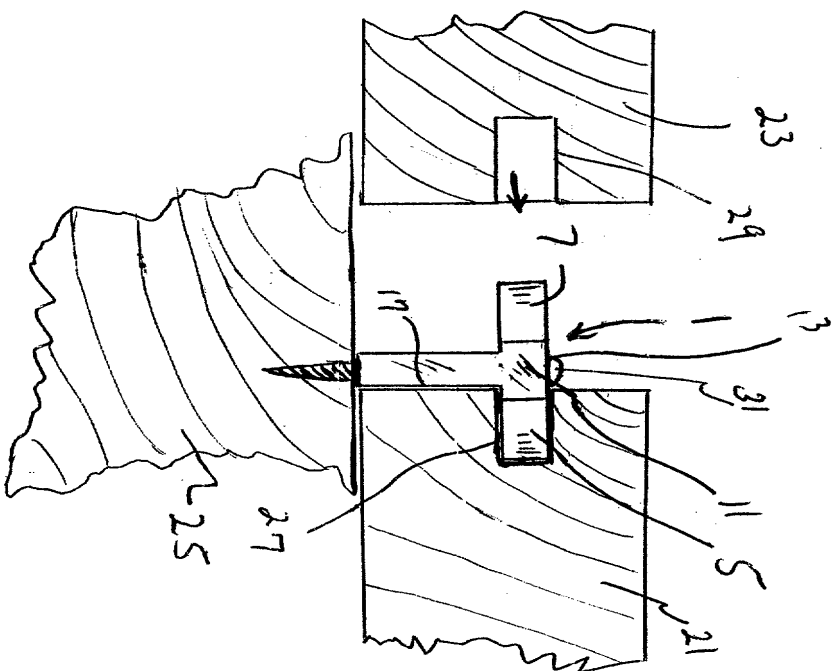


Figure 4

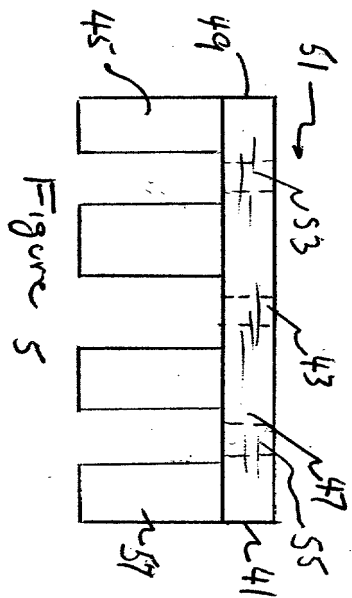


Figure 5

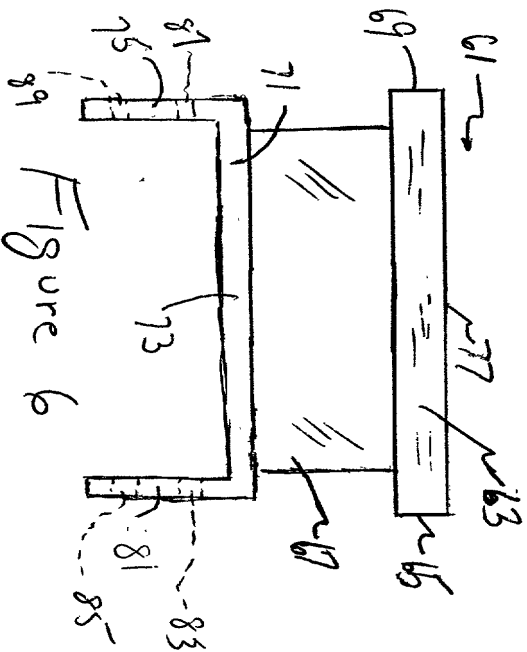


Figure 6

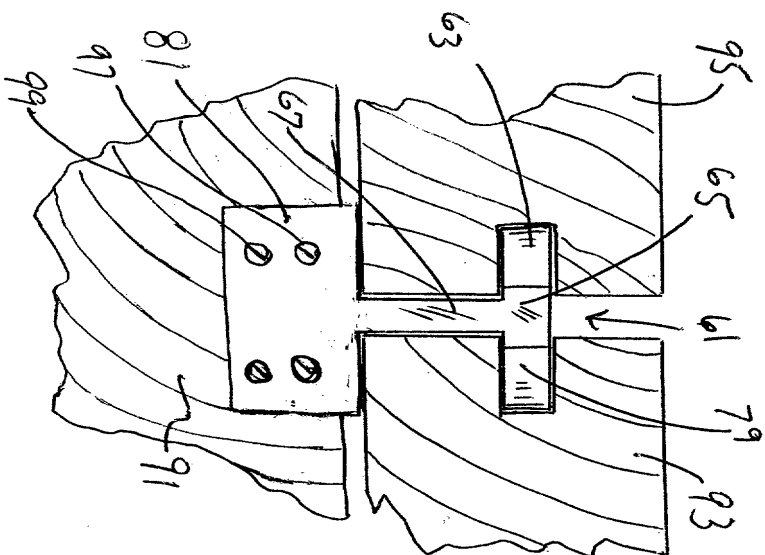


Figure 7

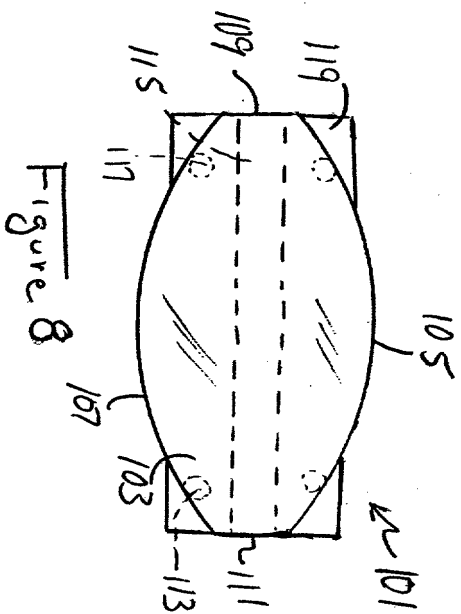


Figure 8

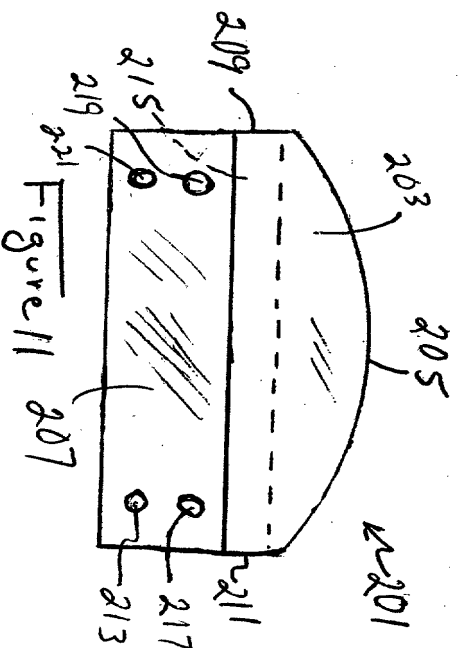


Figure 11

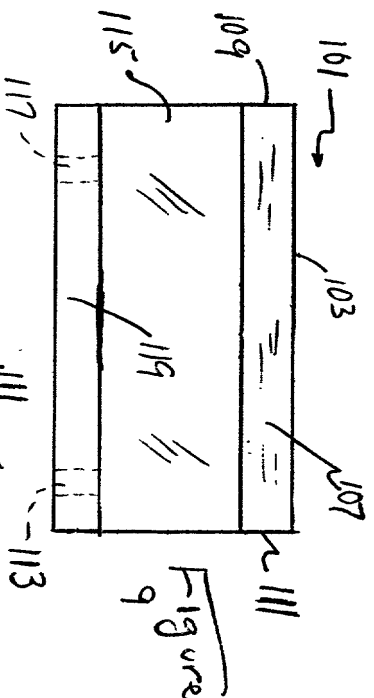


Figure 9

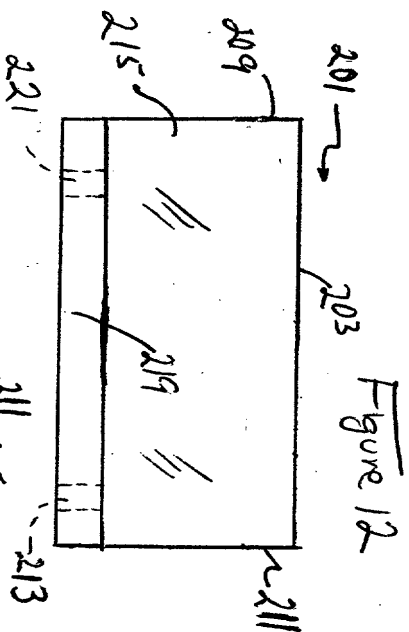


Figure 12

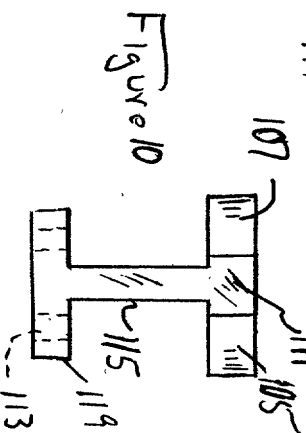


Figure 10

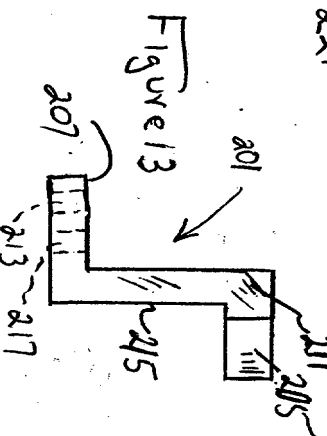


Figure 13

Figure
14

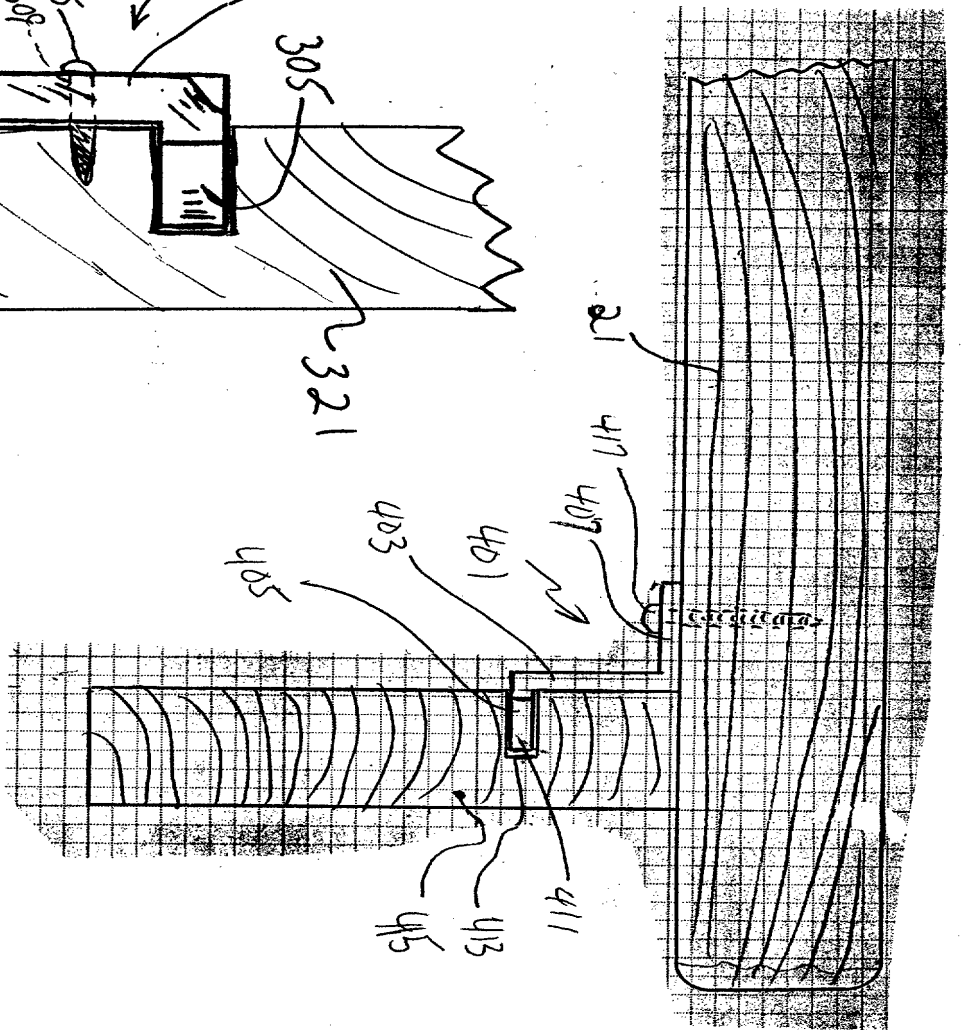
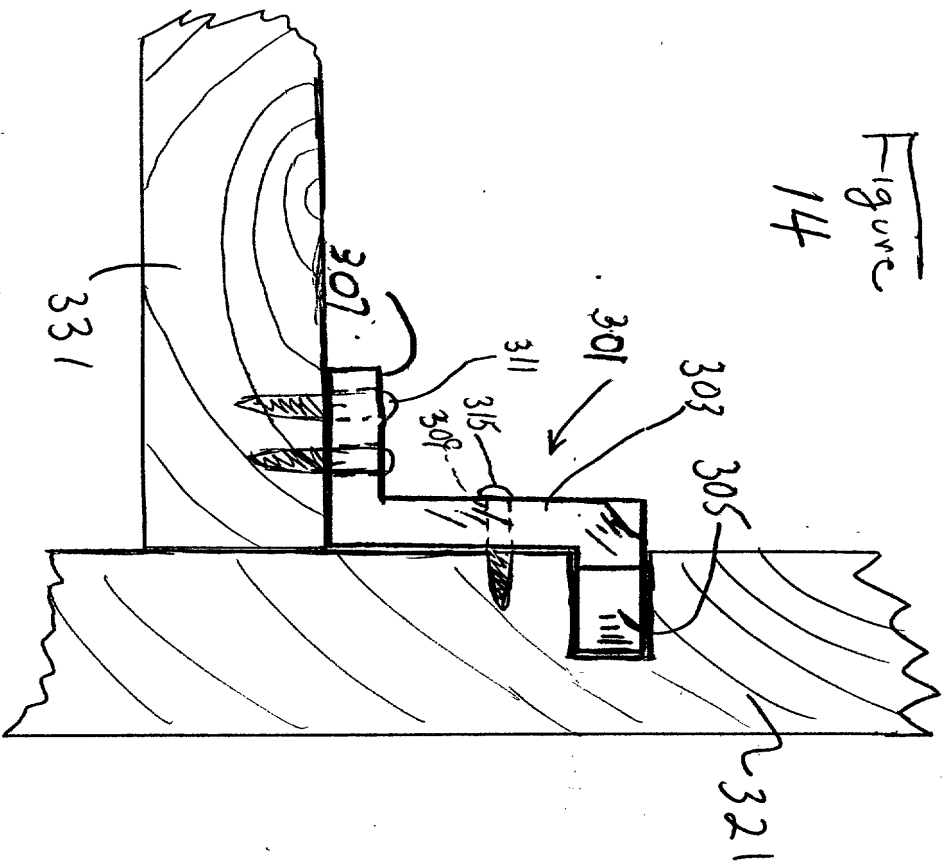


Figure 15

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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
HWE-103A

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought for the invention entitled:

Anchoring Biscuit Device for Joining Two Adjacent Boards

the specification, of which is attached hereto, that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the attached specification, including the claims, that I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations 1.56(a) and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING OF THIS APPLICATION: None

FOREIGN APPLICATIONS FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING OF THIS APPLICATION: None

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Kenneth P. Glynn, Esq., Reg. No. 26,893;

Address all telephone calls to: KENNETH P. GLYNN, ESQ. at

Telephone No.: (908) 788-0077; Fax No.: (908) 788-3999.

Address all correspondence to KENNETH P. GLYNN, ESQ.

Suite 201 (Plaza One), One Rte. 12 W, Flemington, N.J. 08822-1731

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HWE-103 A

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Harry W. Eberle, III	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Harry W. Eberle</i>	DATE 3/4/97
RESIDENCE 357 Vemoy Road, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County		CITIZENSHIP United States

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

357 Vemoy Road
Califon, New Jersey 07830

FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

FULL NAME OF THIRD INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

FULL NAME OF FOURTH INVENTOR, IF ANY	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE	CITIZENSHIP	

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

08841898.030597

Appendix E

Applicant or Patentee: Harry W. Eberle, III Attorney's
 Serial No. or Patent No.: _____ Docket No.: HWE-103A
 Filed or Issued: _____
 For: Anchoring Biscuit device for Joining Two Adjacent Boards

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
 STATUS (37 CFR 1.9 (f) and 1.27 (b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purpose of paying reduced fees under section 41 (a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled Anchoring Biscuit Device for Joining Two Adjacent Boards described in

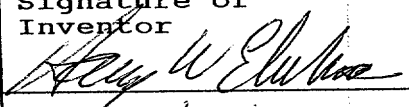
- (x) the specification filed herewith
 () application serial no. _____, filed _____
 () patent no. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9 (c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a non-profit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed nor am I under any obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in this invention to any person, concern or organization which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9 (d) or a non-profit organization under 37 CFR 1.9 (e).

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28 (b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Name of Inventor Harry W. Eberle, III	Name of Inventor	Name of Inventor
Signature of Inventor 	Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
Date 3/4/97	Date	Date

0811598-020597